

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGRE-00 SP-02 ICA-11 AID-05 EB-08
NSC-05 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-07 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03
LAB-04 SIL-01 H-01 L-03 PA-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10
EUR-12 NEA-11 DOE-15 SOE-02 /168 W
-----024414 190118Z /70

R 190058Z MAY 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1451
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY PARIS

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PARIS FOR USOECD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, TCDC, UNDP
SUBJECT: THIRD PREPCOM FOR TCDC CONFERENCE: DEBATES OF
MAY 16 AND 17 ON PLAN OF ACTION

REF: USUN 1969

1. SUMMARY: AFTER DISPOSING OF SEVERAL PROCEDURAL AND
ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES RELATED TO THE TCDC CONFERENCE, THE
PREPARATORY COMMITTEE SETTLED DOWN TO TWO DAYS OF GENERAL
AND SPECIFIC CRITIQUE OF THE DRAFT PLAN OF ACTION. REPRESENTATIVES OF 10 INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES INCLUDING THE
USSR AND NORWAY FOR THE NORDICS SPOKE AS COMPARED WITH 13
LDC REPRESENTATIVES. THE G-77 CAUCUSED AT LEAST TWICE.
THERE WAS WIDE REJECTION OF A GLOBAL FOCAL POINT FOR TCDC,
GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT TCDC IS PRIMARILY AN LDC RESPONSIBILITY, OPPOSITION TO ESTABLISHING TCDC AS THE KINGPIN OF
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THE WHOLE RANGE OF ECONOMIC PROBLEMS ADHERING TO THE
NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE AND SUPPORT FOR MAINTAINING THE CONCEPT OF UNIVERSALITY IN THE UN AS WELL AS TRADITIONAL
SOURCES OF DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE. THE PRC JOINED THE
PREPCOM FOR THE FIRST TIME AND PLEDGED ITS SUPPORT OF TCDC
AND PARTICIPATION IN THE CONFERENCE. DEPARTING DEPUTY
SECRETARY GENERAL ABDEL-MEGUID IN EFFECT ACKNOWLEDGED THE

ALMOST UNANIMOUS REJECTION OF HIS ATTEMPT TO BROADEN TCDC FAR BEYOND ITS TRADITIONAL SCOPE WHILE UNDP ADMINISTRATOR AND TCDC SECRETARY GENERAL BRADFORD MORSE RUEFULLY RECOGNIZED THAT THE COMMITTEE HAD RESPONDED VIGOROUSLY AND UNEQUIVOCALLY TO HIS REQUEST FOR GUIDANCE AND CRITICISM. THE DRAFT PLAN OF ACTION IS EXPECTED TO BE SUBSTANTIALLY REVISED. END SUMMARY

2. PROCEDURAL: AFTER A BRIEF DISCUSSION, THE PREPCOM AGREED TO MODIFY ITS ORIGINAL PLAN FOR THE CONFERENCE BY REDUCING THE NUMBER OF SIMULTANEOUS MEETINGS FROM 3 TO 2, I.E., A PLENARY AND ONE COMMITTEE. HOWEVER, A THIRD SET OF INTERPRETERS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO HANDLE ANY WORKING GROUP. PRE-CONFERENCE CONSULTATIONS TO DISPOSE OF ROUTINE CONFERENCE ITEMS WAS APPROVED ALONG WITH A SLIGHTLY REORDERED DRAFT AGENDA. ARGENTINE DELEGATE GEN. POZZO DESCRIBED CONFERENCE FACILITIES INCLUDING A BANK FOR FOREIGN EXCHANGE AND OFFICIAL TRANSPORTATION ARRANGEMENTS FOR DELEGATIONS NOT HAVING ADEQUATE EMBASSY SUPPORT. THE GOA WILL STAGE AT ITS EXPENSE EXHIBITS AND SEMINARS DEALING WITH TECHNOLOGY, CONSULTATIVE SERVICES, FINANCING AND TRAINING AS MAJOR AREAS OF TCDC ACTIVITY. ARGENTINA IS REQUESTING THAT IT BE ADVISED OF THE COMPOSITION OF ALL DELEGATIONS BY JUNE 30.

3. PARTICIPATION: DESPITE IMPRESSIVE ATTENDANCE AT THIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LAST PREPCOM IN KEEPING WITH THE GA'S OPEN INVITATION, ACTUAL PARTICIPATION WAS LIMITED. TEN INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRY SPOKESMEN INCLUDING THE USSR TOOK THE FLOOR, AS COMPARED WITH ONLY 13 DELEGATES FROM DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. MOROCCO WAS THE ONLY AFRICAN COUNTRY TO SPEAK. INDIA AND THE PRC WERE THE ONLY ASIAN PARTICIPANTS IN THE DEBATE WHILE LATIN AMERICA HAD FIVE SPOKESMEN. ISRAEL AND IRAQ REPRESENTED THE ONLY MIDDLE EAST VIEWS OFFERED. PARTICIPATING IN THE TCDC DISCUSSIONS FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE PRC PLEDGED SUPPORT FOR THE CONCEPT IN LINE WITH THE DICTATES OF MAO AND CHOU AND PROMISED TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE. WHILE FAVORING SELF-RELIANCE, THE CHINESE PREDICTABLY ESCHEWED ISOLATION AND WELCOMED TECHNOLOGICAL TRANSFERS.

4. POLEMICAL THRUST AND CONCEPTUAL PRESENTATION: FEW DELEGATIONS FAILED TO NOTE THE NEW AND COMPREHENSIVE ROLE ASSIGNED TCDC BY THE DRAFT PLAN OF ACTION (P/A). COMMENTS WERE WIDELY CRITICAL WITH MANY (BRAZIL, CANADA, FRANCE, FRG, GDR, NETHERLANDS, YUGOSLAVIA, UK AND US) HOLDING THAT THE THRUST GOES TOO FAR AFIELD. REAFFIRMING THE CONTINUED VALIDITY OF TRADITIONAL TCDC PER DP/69, IT WAS VARIOUSLY ARGUED THAT THE NEW CONCEPT WAS OVERLY

AMBITIOUS, INAPPROPRIATE, REPETITIOUS OF WORK ALREADY ASSIGNED TO OTHER BODIES AND DANGEROUS TO THE VIABILITY OF TCDC ITSELF. MANY ASSERTED THAT TCDC IS NOT AN END IN ITSELF NOR THE ONLY MEANS OF ACHIEVING OVERALL ECONOMIC IMPROVEMENTS. CANADA NOTED THAT THE COLLECTIVITY OF THE LDCS IS NOT IDENTICAL WITH UN COLLECTIVITY.

5. UNIVERSALITY: CRITICISM OF THE NEW CONCEPT OF TCDC (LARGELY AUTHORED BY ABDEL MEGUID) LED TO WIDESPREAD DEFENSE OF THE UNIVERSALITY OF THE UNITED NATIONS. FRANCE OBSERVED THAT UNDER THIS VERSION OF THE P/A, THE UN WOULD BE DEVOTED TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE LDCS. SEEING IN THE P/A A CALL FOR AN LDC COUNTERPART TO OECD, CANADA AND OTHERS SUGGESTED THAT IT BE OUTSIDE THE UN, RATHER THAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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A PART OF THE PROPOSED TCDC COMPLEX.

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6. TCDC FOCAL POINT: IN HIS INITIAL AND CLOSING REMARKS

ABDEL MEGUID DENIED THAT THE RECOMMENDATION FOR A GLOBAL TCDC FOCAL POINT IMPLIED ANY INTENTION OF ESTABLISHING A NEW BUREAUCRACY WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS. THE VAST ARRAY OF RESPONSIBILITIES TO BE ASSIGNED THE FOCAL POINT, HOWEVER, LEFT MOST DELEGATIONS UNCONVINCED. WITH THE NOTABLE EXCEPTION OF JAPAN, ALL SPEAKERS REJECTED THIS PROPOSAL. CANADA, AMONG SEVERAL, EVEN URGED REDUCTION OF CURRENT STAFF DEVOTED TO TCDC.

7. FINANCING: THERE WAS NO SUPPORT FOR SEPARATE FUNDING OF TCDC, ESPECIALLY AT THE JEOPARDY OF TRADITIONAL SOURCES OF DEVELOPMENT AID. ARGENTINA SUGGESTED THAT EACH COUNTRY SHOULD DECIDE WHAT PORTION OF ITS IPF (5-YEAR ASSISTANCE ALLOTMENT) SHOULD BE ALLOCATED TO TCDC PER SE. SEVERAL COUNTRIES (BRAZIL, ROMANIA, YUGOSLAVIA) URGED MORE ATTENTION TO BILATERAL ARRANGEMENTS IN PURSUIT OF TCDC. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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8. AID SOURCES: MANY DELEGATIONS, NOTABLY ARGENTINA, CANADA, FRANCE AND NORWAY (SPEAKING FOR THE NORDIC GROUP), REJECTED THE IMPLIED BIAS OF THE P/A IN FAVOR OF MUTUAL SELF-RELIANCE AMONG LDC'S AND ARGUED THAT RECIPIENT COUNTRIES SHOULD BE ABLE TO CHOOSE ASSISTANCE FROM ALL AVAILABLE QUARTERS. THE POINT WAS MADE REPEATEDLY THAT TCDC DOES NOT REPLACE OR RENDER UNACCEPTABLE TRADITIONAL FORMS AND SOURCES OF DEVELOPMENT AID.

9. MISCELLANEOUS ISSUES: MAJOR DONORS AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ALIKE WERE AGREED THAT THE MAJOR BURDEN FOR EFFECTING TCDC LIES WITH THE LDCS THEMSELVES. IMPROVEMENT AND EXPANSION OF THE INFORMATION SYSTEM BACKSTOPPING TCDC WAS URGED BY ISRAEL, JAPAN AND YUGOSLAVIA. SEVERAL STATES, E.G., FRG AND NETHERLANDS, STRONGLY ADVISED AGAINST MIXING ECDC WITH TCDC, AS THE P/A HAD DONE. BOTH ISRAEL AND ROMANIA CALLED FOR ENHANCED REGIONAL COOPERATION WITH THE FORMER OFFERING TO PLACE AT THE DISPOSAL OF TCDC ITS RESEARCH CENTER ON ARID ZONES. THERE WAS CONCERN EXPRESSED THAT A NEW CONCEPTUAL PAPER WOULD NOT BE AVAILABLE BEFORE THE CONFERENCE. DESPITE ALL GUIDANCE AND CRITICISM OF THE CONCEPTUAL ASPECTS OF THE P/A, MANY DELEGATIONS DON'T TRUST THE SECRETARIAT TO PRODUCE THE DESIRED DOCUMENT.

10. SECRETARIAT RESPONSE: CLEARLY MIFFED BY THE COMMITTEE'S RECEPTION OF HIS NEW AND EXPANDED DIRECTION FOR TCDC, ABDEL MEGUID ACCEPTED ONLY PART OF THE BLAME. THE REST HE ASSIGNED TO INADEQUATE GUIDANCE FROM THE PREPCOM (COMMENT: THIS IS A FALSE CLAIM AS THE 2ND PREPCOM ENDED ON A CLEAR NOTE OF TRADITIONAL TCDC. IT WAS ABDEL MEGUID

HIMSELF WHO BROUGHT A NEW ELEMENT TO THE DISCUSSIONS. BY
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SO DOING HE MAY HAVE "CLEARED THE AIR" BUT HE SURELY DID
NOT ADVANCE THE WORK OF THE PREPCOM.) HE NOTED IN DETAIL
THE MANY CRITICISMS, ADMONITIONS AND SUGGESTIONS OFFERED
AND PROMISED THAT HE WOULD SET THE STAFF ON THE COURSE OF
A MAJOR P/A REVISION. CONFERENCE SECRETARY GENERAL
BRADFORD MORSE SHOWED LITTLE OF HIS NORMAL EBULLIENCE IN
ACKNOWLEDGING THAT HE HAD RECEIVED JUST WHAT HE HAD RE-
QUESTED: COMMENTS, CRITICISM, ADVICE, GUIDANCE.

11. WITH THE G-77 CAUCUS PRE-EMPTING THE MORNING PERIOD
(THE SECOND OR THIRD SUCH GATHERING SINCE START OF THE
PREPCOM AND A CLEAR INDICATION OF INTERNAL DISAGREEMENT),
THE COMMITTEE WILL MEET THURSDAY AFTERNOON FOR INFORMAL
EXCHANGES ON DETAILS OF REVISION OF THE PLAN OF ACTION.
THE 3RD SESSION IS EXPECTED TO COMPLETE ITS WORK ON
SCHEDULE FRIDAY. LEONARD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, PLANNING MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978USUNN02029
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780210-0486
Format: TEL
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780538/aaaabghn.tel
Line Count: 247
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5675179a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 USUN NEW YORK 1969
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2631027
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: THIRD PREPCOM FOR TCDC CONFERENCE: DEBATES OF MAY 16 AND 17 ON PLAN OF ACTION
TAGS: EAID, PORG, XX, UNDP, TCDC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5675179a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014